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ABOUT THE TOPONYM VANAND

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***Abstract:** The Bulgarians are mentioned in historical sources in the vicinity of the Caucasus (region between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea and occupied by Russia, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia). The author of the article present some of the toponyms from a territory, which have a connection with the Bulgarians. On the basis of the historical sources and the toponymic matches in Modern Bulgaria are presented some parallels.*

***Keywords:** Vanand, toponyms, Caucasus area, Bulgarians*

INTRODUCTION

The rightful defining of the toponymics outlines of the out numerous Bulgarian people would emerged an important historical places and regions. This will play a huge role in defining the migrations, developments and ethno-cultural contacts of the Bulgarians.

In the present research is presented hypothesis about the toponym Vanand, located on the territory of Caucasus. Moreover, many years ago the Bulgarians are mentioned in historical sources in this region.

EXPOSITION

In the Caucasus region the Bulgarians are mentioned in the Anonymous Latin Chronograph of year 354, where he recorded: „Ziezi ex quo Vulgares” – Ziezi, of whom the Bulgarians are (Latinski izvori, 1958). This information shows clearly that in the middle of IV century our ancestors had been a part of the eastern nations.

In his work “Church History“ (V–VI century) the Syrian historian Zachary Ritor notes: „Bazgun is a land [with its own language], which touches and spreads to the Caspian gates and to the sea, and is located in the Huns territories. Beyond the Gates [live] the Bulgars with [its] language, a pagan and barbaric people, they have cities and the Alans – they have five cities ... Avnagur [is] a nation who live in tents. Avgar, Sabir Burgar, Alan, Kurtargar, Avars, Khazars, Dirmar, Sirurgur, Bugrasik, Kulas, Abdel, Eftalit – these thirteen nations live in tents, feed themselves with meat of animals and fish, wild beasts and make their living by weapons“ (Petrov, P., V. Gyuzelev, 1978).

The ethnonym Bulgarians is mentioned in „Early History of Armenia“ by the Syrian historian Mar Abas Katina in the 4th century, which had been lost roughly a century later, parts of it were published in "History of Armenia" („History of the Armenians“) finished in 482 by the Movses Khorenatsi.

The correct reading with a view of the peculiarities of the Armenian writing system of the Bulgarians of Wundt is not Vhndur Bulgar, but Vlandur/Valandur, with stress on the last syllable. We owe Peter Goliyski the pointing out the incorrectness, arising from the translation in languages using Latin – the alphabetic character in them is „gh“, while Armenian linguists use the Greek letter „γ“ (Goleeski, P., 2006). With the clarification of this, the author makes meaningless the searching of parallels between the Pamir and vahan Vlandurovs Bulgarians, as suggested by P. Dobrev (Dobrev, P., 1991).

Movses Khorenatsi wrote: „In his days [of Arshak] there was great disorder in the chain of the Great Caucasus mountains, in the Land of bulghars and many of them, when they had

separated, came to our country and lived for a long time (according to Khorenatsi the expression is „lived for times”) under Kohl, a place of fruitful abundance of bread.“ (Goleeski, P., 2006; Horenatsi, M., 1893).

The belief that the resettlement to the south of Kokh was at the time of King Artashes III (422–428), nowadays is considered to be incorrect (Petrov, P., V. Gyuzelev, 1978).

Based on the exact years of ruling given by the author himself, respectively for Valarshak twenty-two and Arshak thirteen, Goliyski suggests that to the first matches Sohemos, who has a second name Tigran (140–162), just how he is known as in Armenian historical tradition and Valar II (185–198). Khorenatsi's data for the erupted riots in the country of the Bulgarians in the Caucasus during the Valar II are a reply to the pressure by the Hazars and barsilas, who leave the door of the Chora (Derbent) headed by their leader and king Vnasep Surhap and pass to south of the river Cura. Perhaps the Wundt Bulgarians find themselves forced to leave their territories as a result of the new changes in the ethno – content in the Northern Caucasus (Goleeski, P., 2006).

Interesting information about Bulgarians in the researched area has been left by the Armenian historian of the XIII century Varda the Great: „His brother [Tigran's] Tigran the Last [Sohemos Tigran] inherited his crown and reigned for 22 years. His son Valar [II], took his place in the thirty-second year of his namesake the king of Persia [Parthian]. He built Valarshavan in the Baseanian District, where he was born and surrounded with walls the settlement Vardges on the River of Kazakh. This village was built by Vardges, son- in -law of Eruand I of the Haikans dynasty, which he surrounded with walls and called it Valarshapat, as well as Nord-kalak. In Valar's days the tribes of the Bulgarians and Hazars together with their king, someone named Vnasep Surhap, appeared on the Kura River with countless army. After defeating and chasing them Valar forced them to go through the door of the Chora, but accidentally hit by an arrow, he died after twenty years of reigning,“ (Vardana Velikago, 1861; Goleeski, P., 2006). Unlike Khorenatsi, Vardan the Great points out on the place of barsils, the bulgarians, which is unlikely to be random.

In another passage of his History Movses Khorenatsi points: „Dismissing the western tribes, he himself (king Valarshak) descended into the rich of grass areas near the border of Sharay, called by the ancients Forestless and Upper Basean, and [which] later due of the migration of Vlandur of Bulcar Wundt (Vlandur-Bulcar of Wundt – by P. Goliyski), who settled in these places were called by his name Vanand. And the names of the villages which were given after the names of his brothers and his descendents, have remained until nowadays.“ (Goleeski, P., 2006; Horenatsi, M., 1893; Petrov, P., 1981).

It appears that the passage concerning the settlement of Vlandur-Bulcar in the Upper Bassett is known to Khorenatsi by Jan Abas Katina, but the second note (under Cahl) is based on another source unknown to us.

Many researchers pay attention to the Bulgarians of Wundt and the Vanand territory, by seeking Bulgarian traces in this direction only in present-day Armenia (Angelov, D., 1971; Petrov, P., 1981).

Plamen Petkov believes that the Bulgarians, Movses Khorenatsi wrote about, moved to Armenia in the II century AD, during the Valarshak II. Although he indicates the existence of „Vanand chai” (Vanand river) the author gives no precise information where the Bulgarian river is located (Petrov, Pl., 2007).

In fact, the hydronym can be clearly seen on the map of Azerbaijan. In the southwestern part of the country Zangilan region (Nagorno-Karabakh Republic) and in the area of modern Ordubad (Nahchivan Republic), are located two villages – Vanandli and Vanand as well as Vanand-chay (Vanand River). Historical maps prove that within the borders of Armenia (District Taik) also have existed location, bearing the name Vanand.

Based on this toponymic traces we offer the hypothesis that there were more than one migration to Vund Bulgarians, (at least two). The thesis for two waves of migration is perceived by Dimitar Tabakov (Tabakov, D., 1999).

Armenian historian Elishe, mentions the „Second Vanandatsi“, which belongs to the Vardhan dynasty (Armyanskaya Sovetskoya Entsiklopediya, 1977–1979). Judging by the information of Armenian chroniclers, it became clear that family of Vanandatsi, increased its power over time.

According to Azerbaijani researches, Khorenatsi notes in his book the Armenian king Vaharshak (153–151 BC) and Vaharshak's son, Arshak, rules from 131 to 118 BC. And the migration to the south of Colchis is in Ağrı Dağı – in the valley of Araksa (Aliarli, S., 2009). It is possible that the toponym Cahl/Koch mentioned in the source to be identical with Koltene, Goltene, Horsene, Gohtn, Gohten or Gohtan – the historic name of Ordubad (Gevond, V., 1862; Istoria impertora Irakliya, 1862; Pashaev, A., 1998). Georgian explorers believe that Horzene is not Vanand but Holarzene/Kalarzene (Kladzheti) – an area located within the western Georgia until 1921, when enforced by the treaty of Kars in 1921, it became part of Turkey. A. Yunusov also believes that Cahl is an area in Georgia (Unusov, A., 2000).

Paustos Byzantatsi notes Artavan (Prince of Vanand) and Zortuaz (Bishop of Vanand) – both at IV c. (Buzanda, F., 1953).

These data indicate that the toponym Vanand was known before the reign of Arshak II and Arshak III. Bulgarian historians believe that during their reign was the resettlement of Bulgarians Wundt (Angelov, D., 1971; Burmov, A., 1968; Petrov, P., 1981; Stepanov, Ts., 1999).

The presence of district Banantea in the Peutinger tables give rise to other Bulgarian historians to bring the resettlement of Bulgarians of Vund back in time – at the end of the II – at beginning of III century (Stamatov, At., 1997).

The Wundt Bulgarians appear in the IV c. (Later!). This information is confirmed by the “Name-List of Bulgarian Khans”, discovered in the middle of the 19th c. in a collection of Russian manuscripts. The chronic present the ruling families and the first Bulgarian ruler is Avithohol (in 165).

According to the Iranian religious views Vanand (Vega) is associated with the West (Mifologiya drevnego mira, 1977). The existence of the name Nandor among Hungarians are crossed in Romania (Stefanov, P., 1989). On this basis, some Bulgarian researchers suggest that Vnandur may be translated as Bulgarians “Westerners” (Goleeski, P., 2006). According to the other researches “vanando” the ancient Baktrian translated as “conquering”. In this case v.n.n.d.r. is the winner nation. V.n.n.d.r. Bulgarians, as they are recorded by the Arab authors, probably leave a toponymic trail in the name of the mountains, called “mountain v.n.n.d.r.” (Zahoder, B., 1967). Vlandur of Bulcar Wundt are familiar from the Khazar and Arabic chronicles v.n.n.d.r., v.n.n.t.r. and onoghontor of the Armenian geography “Ashharatsuits“. The double forms are and Vanandur, Unogundur, Olhontor and Hailandur.

Anthroponyms Wundt corresponds to several toponym in Modern Bulgaria (Velingrad district): Bund neighborhood, Bund peak, Bund fountain, etc. (Balkanski, T., 1995). Here we have to define that the replacing of letter „б“ with letter „В“ had been done often in the Medieval Bulgaria.

In Diocesan lists of IX–X mid-century we meet Vunditsa diocese, whose name is drawn from the Slavic word „vodinica” or Old Bulgarian – „ВДИЦА” (Grytski izvori za bulgarskata istoria, 1961).

In the ages from III–V century the Bulgarians along with the khangars have appeared in a compact mass in Caucasian Albania (Aliarli, S., 2009; Letopis Kartli, 1982). Actually some researchers have an opinion that „the country of khangars“ is located within the borders of Georgia (Letopis Kartli, 1982). About the toponyms in Southern Azerbaijan, related with khandars, mentioned A. Junusov (Unusov, A., 2000). Very interesting is the fact that one of the kengerli's subunit in the country during the XIX th century is marked as „болгарлы” – Bulgarians (Smirnov, K., 1999). The availability of this information leads us to think didn't the bulgarians have a connection with the Kengerli/Kangerli and Yuzhi/Yuezhi. The rulin tribe within the last had been hun-e (Xiongnu), and the ruling dynasty – Ven. The Yuezhi were defeated from the Huns

and forced to move west where they create new countries. But to all at the head stood a representative of the dynasty Ven (Bichurin, N., 1950).

CONCLUSION

From everything said so far here we can conclude that the toponym Vanand, met under different forms within the boundaries of present-day Caucasus area, probably has Bulgarian origin. Further extensive research in this direction could help to clarify the origin of the Bulgarians, which still appears to be an obstacle to the historical science.

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